

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS 1-34 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 35 (NEW): A bicycle crank axle adapted to be rotatably supported within a bottom bracket of a bicycle frame, wherein the crank axle comprises:  
an axle body having first and second end portions; and  
a projection extending radially outwardly from one of the first and second end portions of the axle body, wherein the projection is dimensioned and positioned to be located externally of the bottom bracket so as to abut against a laterally outer side surface of a bicycle crank arm to prevent the bicycle crank arm from moving axially outwardly.

CLAIM 36 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 35 wherein the projection extends circumferentially along the axle body.

CLAIM 37 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 36 wherein the projection extends completely around the axle body.

CLAIM 38 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 35 further comprising a plurality of splines disposed at the one of the first and second end portions of the axle body.

CLAIM 39 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 38 wherein the plurality of splines are disposed axially inwardly of the projection.

CLAIM 40 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 39 wherein the plurality of splines are located in close proximity to the projection.

CLAIM 41 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 40 wherein the plurality of splines are located directly adjacent to the projection.

CLAIM 42 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 40 wherein the plurality of splines extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body.

CLAIM 43 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 35 further comprising a plurality of splines disposed at the other one of the first and second end portions of the axle body.

CLAIM 44 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 43 wherein the plurality of splines do not extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body.

CLAIM 45 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 44 wherein the plurality of splines do not extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body located axially inwardly of the plurality of splines.

CLAIM 46 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 35 wherein the other one of the first and second end portions of the axle body includes a threaded opening.

CLAIM 47 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 46 further comprising a plurality of splines disposed at the other one of the first and second end portions of the axle body.

CLAIM 48 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 47 wherein the plurality of splines do not extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body.

CLAIM 49 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 48 wherein the plurality of splines do not extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body located axially inwardly of the plurality of splines.

CLAIM 50 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 46 wherein the projection is disposed at the first end portion of the axle body, and further comprising:

- a plurality of first splines disposed at the first end portion of the axle body; and
- a plurality of second splines disposed at the second end portion of the axle body.

CLAIM 51 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 50 wherein the plurality of first splines are disposed axially inwardly of the projection.

CLAIM 52 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 51 wherein the plurality of first splines are located in close proximity to the projection.

CLAIM 53 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 52 wherein the plurality of second splines do not extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body.

CLAIM 54 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 53 wherein the plurality of second splines do not extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the axle body located axially inwardly of the plurality of second splines.

CLAIM 55 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 54 wherein the projection extends circumferentially along the axle body.

CLAIM 56 (NEW): The crank axle according to claim 55 wherein the projection extends completely around the axle body.